



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Lake Verret and other area water bodies experiencing increased algal blooms

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality reports that algal blooms and current high temperatures may cause fish kills, odors and an increase in water discoloration in Louisiana waterways. Lake Verret is one of the water bodies reported to DEQ for discolored water. Concerns have also been expressed about the lake's salinity.

Certain water bodies in the state, including Lake Verret, may contain areas that appear to be green, blue-green, yellowish-brown or red in color as a result of algal blooms. The color varies given the species of algae inherent in the water body. Algal blooms form in waterways as a result of high temperatures, warmer water, increases in nutrients in the water, and water runoff containing agricultural fertilizers and/or phosphorus from household cleaning materials.

DEQ staff that are conducting scheduled water quality sampling in the Lake have not recorded any levels of concern for salinity but will continue to monitor Lake Verret for water quality parameters, including salinity, at various depths in the water column.

“Fortunately, Lake Verret has a diverse habitat, including tree shaded cover and deeper holes for fish to find available oxygen, so while we are seeing the discoloration in portions of the Lake, we aren’t seeing fish kills,” said Tom Killeen, DEQ Inspection Division Administrator. “Most fish kills that occur during this time of the year are typically in very high water temperatures in ponds and shallow water bodies that lack cover and depth. Warm water does not hold dissolved oxygen and certain fish species, such as shad or brim, are more vulnerable.”

For any questions or concerns about algal blooms, fish kills, or ambient water quality, citizens may contact the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at (225) 219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.

Citizens may also report an incident online by completing an incident reporting form at:
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/apps/forms/irf/forms/>.